

TUESDAY, 2 P. M.

Choir sang,

"From Greenland's icy mountains,
From India's coral strand."

Prayer by Elder ALBERT CARRINGTON.

Choir sang,

"Ye Gentile nations cease your strife
And listen to the words of life,"

Elder L. JOHN NUTTALL read the financial report of the Trustee in Trust, containing a detailed statement of the receipts and disbursements during the year 1879.

President TAYLOR stated that vouchers were on hand for all the accounts read, and thought that the Auditing Committee should examine them.

Elder LORENZO SNOW moved that we accept the report, and that it be referred, with the accompanying documents, to the Auditing Committee. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The financial report of the Logan Temple was then read, also of the Manti Temple.

An exhibit of the receipts and expenditures of the Perpetual Emigration Fund for the past six months, was presented.

ELDER ERASTUS SNOW.

I am somewhat weary from journeying, but I will try, if the congregation will be as quiet as possible, to make myself heard the short time I may speak.

I congratulate myself, my brethren and the people generally on this auspicious occasion—the end of our fiftieth year in our organized capacity, as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; and on the general outlook, the prosperity that is attending our efforts, the general peace that prevails throughout our land, the goodly degree of unanimity and fellowship and brotherly love existing among the people as shown in the general good feeling that is manifest in all the quarterly conferences and Stakes of Zion, as well as in the interest shown by the people at large on this occasion. The financial reports which we have heard, coupled with the general reports of school superintendents and other public functionaries to the Legislative Assembly during the last winter, tend to show the general advancement and progress of the people in all that is calculated to elevate and exalt a nation. The great number of meetinghouses and schoolhouses, and pupils in attendance in our district schools, and also in the more advanced schools of the Territory, are very gratifying; and the general health of the people at large, and all sources of gratitude and thanksgiving, calling forth our devotion to our Father, the Creator.

The discourse this morning by Elder F. D. Richards foreshadows what was anciently figured by the year of jubilee, and as understood and practised by ancient Israel, namely, the severing of the bonds with which the people were bound—the breaking of the yoke from off their necks, and setting the captive free, and the proclaiming of liberty throughout the land unto all the

inhabitants thereof. The general recommendation to exercise mercy and forgiveness of sins, and release the poor of indebtedness, extending relief to the needy, and making the hearts of all the people glad; it is to be hoped that in this good work of liberality, of kindness, of charity, of love—love unto God and unto all his children may make itself manifest more abundantly among all Israel than it has in times past—withstanding the Latter-day Saints have been proverbial for their self-abnegation, for their devotion to each other's interest, for their brotherly kindness and charity, for their ministering unto the poor, and gathering their poor brethren, and uniting and co-operating together and in promoting each others general interest and welfare—we hope to see a renewal of our efforts in this direction; and that from this time we may date more rapid progress, renewed efforts, more earnest devotion to the sacred principles of our holy religion, to this spirit of oneness and unity which we look for and pray for, and which has been prophesied of by all the holy prophets, that is necessary to prepare a people for the coming of the Son of Man to reign in the midst of his people. And we might offer a few words by way of reminder and exhortation unto those that have been delinquent in their duty in times past, and in their efforts to live up to their privileges and to exemplify the principles of the Gospel in their lives and conduct. When will they have a better time than the present, and what period of the history of the Church of Christ so suitable as the present—the commencement of the second half century of our existence—as the period to date their reformation of life and the allaying of all that lethargy and apathy which has prevailed?

Touching our P. E. Fund indebtedness, the books of the company show a vast amount due from those who have been emigrated during the last thirty years in which we have been laboring to gather the poor from distant lands and countries. I am informed by those better acquainted with this matter than I am, that the amount of indebtedness amounts to sixteen hundred thousand dollars. With all this vast amount due from the people all over the land, we find their operation during the last six months limited to about ten thousand dollars; when in reality the operations of this company in the gathering of the poor ought and might, if all did their duty, reach a hundred thousand dollars every year, extending relief to many thousands of those who are praying for deliverance in the downtrodden countries of Europe and elsewhere where the poor have the Gospel preached unto them. For as it was in the days of the Savior, so it is now—the poor have the Gospel preached unto them. This fact Jesus announced to the disciples of John who were sent by John while he was in prison, to the Savior to inquire about the rumors which he had heard of him. The Savior was preaching and baptizing, performing miracles, etc., and as John was in prison he could hear nothing but general rumor, and therefore he sent his disciples to seek this Jesus of Nazareth, who was making such a stir in the land, and to ascertain who he was and what his message to the people was. And in answer to their inquiry—"Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?" Jesus answered and said unto them, "Go and show John again those things which ye do hear and see: the blind receive their sight, etc., and the poor have the Gospel preached unto them." By this John was to know who he was and what his message was. The same answer is before the world to-day in the message of the Latter-day

Saints and their labors throughout the earth, wherever this Gospel has been sent and preached by the Elders of this Church. The sick have been healed by the prayer of faith and the laying on of hands, and devils have been cast out, and the poor have the Gospel preached unto them, and many of the poor have been gathered. And very many of these have shown themselves worthy—they have paid their indebtedness as fast as they could; others have been willing and desirous of doing so, but adverse circumstances have prevented them; while another class have been ungrateful, and have not sufficiently realized the rock from whence they were hewn, nor the pit from which they were digged, allowing years to pass without an effort, or even a righteous desire, to pay this just debt, thereby preventing the means thus due to go on its errand of mercy to bring other poor.

Now, it is contemplated that this year of jubilee shall be made a year of release and comfort to those who are indebted to the Fund, who have striven to do their duty and discharged it as far as able to do so, but whose circumstances have been adverse, preventing them from doing as their hearts listed. It is proposed that such be set free; and while we feel it is a privilege the Lord has given us of speaking comforting words to such, and of loosing the bands from their feet and set them free, we feel, on the other hand, it to be equally our duty to remind those who have been negligent, that if they also would enjoy the riches of Christ and the forgiveness of their sins, they must bestir themselves and come up to every duty, and cease from all hard speeches and from worldly-mindedness and pride, and from a desire to get rich before they are just, and to accumulate wealth before they have signified their gratitude for past favors.

We might also refer to the reports of tithing, but from the observations of the Bishops and others, perhaps I might be permitted to repeat their observations, founded on the experience of years, in receiving and disbursing the tithes of the people, and the general accounts from the various wards and stakes and settlements throughout the land; and in repeating their observations I might add my own testimony and experience and observation, formed by the experience of many years in ministering among the people, examining reports and accounts, and receipts and disbursements, and lists of those who do tithe themselves and those who do not; and the general expression of the presiding Bishop and his Counselors and men of observation and experience; bears out a declaration once made by President Young in his lifetime, in effect, that there was not more than half an honest tithing paid in the midst of Israel; and that if an honest tithing were paid by the people generally, we should have an abundance to build our temples, our meetinghouses, to provide for the poor and relieve the needy, to gather the Saints, and accomplish what may be necessary for the benefit of all the people, without calling on them for extra donations. But from the Logan and Manti Temple reports we learn that about \$170,000 has been expended upon these temples within the last year; while about twenty-eight to thirty thousand of this sum has been appropriated out of the tithing, the balance being the free-will offering of the people. We have no report of what has been done in the way of donations in this temple district, but the presumption is that while \$140,000 of the tithing has been expended upon the Salt Lake Temple, that perhaps an equal sum has been donated; but

of this we are not informed, and not being myself in a position to be able to speak of it, of course I will leave it to my brethren residing here in this temple district to speak on this matter, as it might be gratifying to the people of the Salt Lake Temple district to be represented in our General Conference, and that it might also be known what they are doing in the way of free-will offerings in the building of this temple, as well as their brethren in other temple districts. But I repeat what President Young said, and which I believe to be true, that if an honest tithing were paid by all the people, according to their professions, these extra offerings and donations would be unnecessary. You perceive from the financial reports that the aggregated sum of the tithes and offerings seem somewhat large, yet considering the various sources of disbursement, as well as the character of the property received—being all kinds of produce and labor, and comparatively but little money—that the disbursements in the various directions have been sufficient to exceed and consume the income together with the offerings. And with some it would seem as though they were not making progress as fast as the people could desire or wish; but if we are not in our public improvements moving as fast as the people could wish, you will perceive it is not the fault of the Bishops and others who have the direction of these financial affairs. Nor does there appear to be a wastefulness or unreasonable expenditure in the receiving and disbursing, as a rule; though there may be in isolated cases, which do not come, perhaps, sufficiently manifest to be noticed in order to be corrected; but as fast as any thing of the kind does appear it receives proper attention. And the people have reason to feel a measure of satisfaction and congratulation in the great amount of good that is being accomplished from these small revenues gathered from this vast people in all parts of the land, and extending as we are new settlements on the east and north and south and southeast, and in various directions, occupying new regions of country and bringing into use fertile fields, preparing homes for the Saints, and thus fulfilling the words of the Prophet Isaiah—“Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations; spare not, lengthen thy cords and strengthen thy stakes; for thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.” That our nation should be somewhat jealous of us is not to be wondered at from the very nature and character of our institutions and thrift of our people. The same jealousy manifested itself in Missouri in early days, when the Saints were broken up and driven from that place because of their thrift, their provoking industry, the extent of their mechanism, the skill of their artisans, and the thrift that was manifested in turning the desert into a fruitful field, making a great contrast in northwest Missouri between the settlements of the Latter-day Saints and other regions of Missouri at those early times. Not that the Latter-day Saints in these mountains by anything they or their institutions are doing are menacing the general interests of the country, only they are provoking many people upon this American Continent who seem rather inclined to dwindle and live in voluptuousness and ease, and spend their vast incomes in gratifying the pride of life and lusts of the flesh, ostentation and show; while the Latter-day Saints seek more enduring wealth—and fill the land with an enterprising population; and are content to provide the common necessities of

cent. and give up the note, though the other five per cent. belongs to the Fund by his own gladly undertaken agreement. Another says: "I am willing to pay the principal, but I will not pay any interest." That is not very polite, though it certainly is plain. Pay us the principal and you can have your note. And lately some have gone so far as to ask us to forego a portion of the principal, which we have not felt at liberty to do; but now all such persons can apply to their Bishops, and they will report. Can any one discern any crowding or oppression in these cases? Now, in all kindness, in all sincerity, I earnestly solicit the debtors to the Fund, for their own sakes, for the sake of the work they profess to uphold and sustain, and for the sake of the ungathered poor in their poverty and bondage, to wake up and help this season, so far as they may be able, that more of the Lord's poor may also rejoice in their deliverance.

As to the application of the funds in assisting, it has been the custom, as a general practice, to use the very best information to be had as to the disposal of any given amount. On that plan, last season and the season before, most of the means were directed from the P. E. Fund office. This season they have the best information at the office in Liverpool, or can obtain it, with regard to the condition and circumstances of the Saints, for which reason all the means we receive, except small amounts loaned to those who have nearly enough, and to be returned in time for this year's emigration, are forwarded to Liverpool, to be distributed as the authorities there may deem best. But with all our efforts since the close of last season, after paying off an indebtedness incurred in helping a number of Saints from the East who had been mobbed, we had only £112, or \$543, to send to Liverpool for the April company. That would not emigrate one large destitute family; it is a mere drop in the bucket. But it was all we had; and we were obliged to instruct that the amount must not be exceeded, because we have no right to fall back upon the Trustee, and ask him to pay indebtedness incurred by the operations of the Fund. Will we be able to forward any money for the May company? Only a very small amount, so far as I know, though this rests with those who are due the Fund.

Some may wish to know why the making of donations has not been urged more than it has. In 1869 there were so many assisted that it interfered with other arrangements, not known at the time; and before there were means for overcoming that difficulty, the financial crash of 1873 occurred. When I spoke to President Young about donations, he said: "Wait a while; the people are poor just now. Try and collect the indebtedness, as far as you can." And since then, among other reasons, I have not felt to solicit donations, because it is well known that there is a very large sum due to the Fund, so large that, if we could only receive one-half of it, we could gather all that any one would say ought to be gathered, and then have much money left to go on with; and were I to solicit aid under such circumstances, I am of the opinion that I might be advised to collect what is due to the Fund. And what could I say? I have yet to learn what I would be able to say.

I deem the gathering of scattered Israel to be a part of the work that belongs to us as Latter-day Saints, in building up the Church and Kingdom of our God upon the earth. I think it is part of our labor, the same as building temples, sustaining the poor, sending missionaries abroad and sustaining their families when necessary, and all that tends to spread the principles of truth

Choir and congregation sang:

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

Adjourned till October 6, 1880, at 10 A. M., in the same place.

Benediction by Elder WILFORD WOODRUFF.

GEORGE GODDARD. Clerk.

PRIESTHOOD MEETING.

A meeting of the Priesthood was held according to appointment in the Assembly Hall, Thursday evening at 7 o'clock. It was opened by singing, and prayer by President ANGUS M. CANNON. After which the meeting was addressed by Elder GEORGE TEASDALE, who was followed by Elder ERASTUS SNOW, in a discourse on the authority of the Priesthood in its several classes and callings. President JOHN TAYLOR made some closing remarks, full of instruction and inspiration.

Elder L. JOHN NUTTALL then read the following additional names of Elders nominated for missions: Charles Schneitter, First Ward, Salt Lake City, to Switzerland and Germany; Jens Hansen, of Mill Creek, to Scandinavia; James Myler, Clarkston, to the United States.

The doxology was sung, and meeting dismissed with prayer by Elder WILFORD WOODRUFF

MINUTES

Of the Fourth Semi-Annual General Conference of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associations, held in the Salt Lake Assembly Hall, Tuesday Evening, April 6, 1880.

ON the stand were President John Taylor, Apostles W. Woodruff, C. C. Rich, F. D. Richards, Joseph F. Smith and Moses Thatcher, and Counselor D. H. Wells.

The Presidency of the Salt Lake and Utah County Stakes, Junius F. Wells and Milton H. Hardy, and the Stake Superintendents of Box Elder, Davis, Morgan, Salt Lake, Utah and Weber Counties, and representatives from Beaver, Juab, Sanpete, St. George, Sevier, Summit, Tooele and Wasatch.

Meeting called to order by Junius F. Wells. After singing and prayer, President JOHN TAYLOR addressed the meeting on the subject of mutual improvement, referring more particularly to the young men, and explained the suggestions from the Council of Apostles in relation to a more complete and permanent organization. After which, Apostle Wilford Woodruff was nominated for General Superintendent, with Apostles Joseph F. Smith and Moses Thatcher as his assistants. The nominations were carried unanimously.

Superintendent WOODRUFF then briefly addressed the meeting, expressing his interest in the work of mutual improvement among the young, and called for the statistical report, the totals of which were accordingly read as follows:—

Stake organizations, 20; associations, 239; members, 9,206; average attendance, 5,755; quarterly conferences, 47; weekly meetings, 2,640; conjoint sessions, 551; extra meetings, 156; total meetings, 3,394; visitors sent, 1,326; visitors received, 1,155; visits of county and general officers, 390; members gone on missions, 73; libraries, 95; volumes 3,554; value of books, \$3,986.45; manuscript papers, 274; financial exhibit showed cash and other property on hand, \$3,794.87; Scripture reading, total chapters read, 77,012; subjective lectures given, 2,904; testimonies borne, 3,295.

After the reading of the report, Superintendent WOODRUFF made a few remarks, and called for a vote of the people to sustain the suggestions of the Apostles in relation to the organization, which was unanimous. A preamble and resolutions respecting cruelty to animals and the killing of birds were presented and read, and the sentiments expressed therein voted upon.

The meeting was dismissed by President JOHN TAYLOR.

CIRCULAR FROM THE TWELVE APOSTLES.

SALT LAKE CITY, U. T., APRIL 16th, 1880.

To the Presidents of Stakes and Bishops of the several Wards:

Dear Brethren:—During the annual Conference begun in this city on the 6th inst., the Trustee in Trust, with the unanimous approval of the Apostles and Counselors, deemed it a fitting opportunity on the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and at the close of the Year of Jubilee, to propose remitting some \$800,000, or one-half of the indebtedness to the Perpetual Emigrating Fund Company, by the worthy poor who are struggling with adversity, unable to pay, and with but little prospect of ever being able. This very liberal proposition was cordially sustained by the unanimous vote of the vast congregation, composed of authorities and members from all regions of our settlements.

That these remissions may be applied in the wisest manner possible, the Bishops of the several wards are hereby respectfully requested to at once proceed to learn who of those indebted to the P. E. Fund Company they may deem entitled to the benefit of the aforementioned remissions, and write down names, ages, year of immigration and post office address, with a few of the principal reasons why they recommend a remission, and forward all such recommends to their several Presidents of Stakes.

The Presidents of Stakes are also respectfully requested to at once carefully examine the aforesaid recommends from the Bishops; endorse thereon their approval or disapproval, with or without remarks, as the may please, and forward to the President or clerk of the P. E. F. Co., Box B, this city, for consideration and final action by the proper authorities here, and their action thereon will be made known to the parties concerned through their bishop as speedily as may be.

In case a bishop shall deem it more proper to recommend remitting only a part of an indebtedness, he will recommend accordingly, as aforementioned, specifying the amount.

DELINQUENT TITHING REMITTED.

At the general Jubilee Conference, April, 1880, President John Taylor

proposed, and the Conference voted that the deserving poor have their delinquent tithing remitted throughout the whole Church, to the amount of one-half the total of all the delinquencies; under such regulations as shall be approved by the Stake Presidents and the Apostles. The Presidents of Stakes and Bishop's agents are therefore respectfully requested to ascertain from the books in the several wards under their jurisdiction the amount of all such delinquencies, and, at an early day, a list of names and the wards where found, with the amounts recommended for remittal, which should include *all delinquencies* of persons, generally well disposed, but who, by reason of losses, affliction, helpless families or missionary labors, have been unable to pay, and such amounts of other delinquents as may be deemed right and proper, in accordance with the spirit of the Conference. Should the total amounts so recommended for remission amount to less or more than one-half the total delinquency of your Stakes respectively, it will be adjusted and equalized as far as practicable, and as shall be deemed to be just by the Presiding Bishop, with the approval of the Apostles. The several agents should consult with bishops, and make up lists to be submitted to the Stake Presidency, which, after such modifications as they deem advisable, should be signed by them and the Bishop's agents for the Stake, and forwarded to the Presiding Bishop of the Church.

We need not remind you that neither favoritism nor prejudice should influence anyone in these matters, but only an earnest desire to make the yoke easy and the burden light.

DONATION OF COWS AND SHEEP.

On the suggestion of President John Taylor and his brethren of the Council of Apostles, by common consent, as expressed by the unanimous vote of the Saints in Conference assembled, on April 7, 1880, one thousand good young milch cows and five thousand head of healthy sheep were appropriated for the relief of the deserving poor Saints in Zion. Three hundred of the former and two thousand of the latter were subscribed by the Church, and the remainder as a donation by the several Stakes, as expressed by the vote of the Presidencies of the Stakes and Bishops of the wards, who were present at the meeting.

In order that a proper apportionment may be determined, the Presidents of the several Stakes are requested to ascertain and report to the Trustee in Trust as speedily as possible the number of cows and sheep that will be required to relieve the worthy poor in their Stakes.

A prompt report, giving the names and residences in full of such as the Bishops recommend, and whom you can endorse as being worthy and needy, will enable us to determine at once, and inform you of how many head of each it will be necessary for you to furnish. In securing subscriptions, it would be well as far as possible to make, at the same time, distributions as you may think proper.

Being aware of the object of this charitable measure, you will, we feel assured, perceive the importance of being thorough, prompt and energetic in its accomplishment.

THE LOANING OF RELIEF SOCIETY WHEAT.

To the President of the Central Grain Committee, and Presidents of the various Branches of the Relief Society in Salt Lake City and throughout the Stakes of Zion, having in charge stored Wheat:

In accordance with a unanimous vote of the sisters present at our late general Conference, we recommend that you loan to your respective bishops so much wheat as they may consider requisite to meet the necessities of the deserving poor.

We also recommend that the bishops receipt to you and take receipts from those to whom they distribute, that the wheat loaned may be faithfully returned when circumstances shall permit.

We realize that our sisters have performed a highly commendable and praiseworthy labor in storing wheat for future emergencies, and we trust that, inasmuch as the wheat is loaned without interest, the bishops, in carrying out the above measures, will see that they receive a full equivalent for their loans, taking into consideration the losses in changing, as well as the difference between old and new wheat as to quality and quantity. The shrinkage is supposed to be about ten per cent. The bishops should be responsible for the return of the wheat, hence they should loan on good security and to such persons as will return the same according to agreement. It should be loaned mainly for seed. The Tithing Office will in no case be responsible for the return of the whole or any part thereof.

THE FORGIVENESS OF DEBTS TO THE WORTHY POOR IN ZION.

At our recent Annual Conference, the Church, by common consent, remitted one-half of the people's entire indebtedness to the Perpetual Emigrating Fund Company, and one-half the amount due on back tithing account, aggregating about \$875,900. This amount to apply to the cancellation of the obligations of the worthy poor on their emigration and tithing accounts, thus freeing them from a burden which they have been unable to honorably cast off. To all such, in this regard, we offer a jubilee. The power of God moving the hearts of the Saints still further, caused them to appropriate, for the relief of the deserving poor of Zion, one thousand head of cows and five thousand head of sheep. In addition to this, the Relief Societies, with a liberal generosity, offer to loan to the needy some thirty-four thousand bushels of wheat until after harvest, without interest.

With these worthy examples, as the fruits of the gospel before us, we wish to extend to all our brethren and sisters the privilege of aiding in this good work of compassion and love. We respectfully remind those who have the riches of this world more abundantly bestowed upon them, that they have a fitting opportunity of remembering the Lord's poor. If you hold their notes and they are unable to pay, forgive the interest and the principle, or so much thereof as you might desire them to forgive were their and your circumstances reversed, thus doing unto others as you would that others should do unto you. For upon this hang the law and the prophets. If you have mortgages upon the homes of your brethren and sisters who are poor, worthy and honest, and who desire to pay you but cannot, free them in whole or in part. Extend to

them a jubilee, if you can consistently. You will have their faith, prayers and confidence, which may be worth more than money. We invite Zion's Co-operative Mercantile Institution as the parent; all other co-operative institutions as the children and our brethren who are engaged in profitable railroad, banking, mercantile, manufacturing or other remunerative enterprises, to extend a helping hand. Free the worthy debt-bound brother if you can. Let there be no rich among us from whose tables fall only crumbs to feed a wounded Lazarus. Rather let us each and all do our part honorably, justly, charitably and well. The Church of Christ has given us a worthy example, let us follow it, so that God may forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors. By so doing, you will, as Jesus says, "Make unto yourselves friends with the mammon of unrighteousness, that when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations."

That all these matters may be carried promptly to a successful issue, we advise the Presidencies of the several Stakes and the Bishop's agents, to proceed at once to visit all the wards therein, holding meetings in order to arrange all these matters while making their visits. By this means they will more readily accomplish what is herein required, and have their minds relieved of the responsibilities relating thereto. Those needing wheat for seed must of course have it soon in order that it may be available for that purpose this season; while those needing cows and sheep will appreciate promptness in their delivery.

JOHN TAYLOR,

In behalf of the Council of Apostles.

TO ALL PRESIDENTS AND BISHOPS.

In addition to items contained in our Circular, we call attention to persons removed from your wards leaving unsettled tithing accounts. All balances against them should be promptly forwarded to the bishops where they now reside, if known, and if their present residence be unknown to you, send it to the Presiding Bishop, so that such old accounts may be considered and included in the recommendations of bishops for cancellation. An entry should be made in your books showing the transfer of such old accounts, that they may not be longer reported among your delinquencies.

In behalf of the Apostles.

JOHN TAYLOR,

President.